

# GRACE NEWS



July 28 | 2024

Grace Family,

One of the last steps to being ordained as a pastor is your examination on the floor of the Presbytery. I will never forget mine almost 10 years ago. I was full of anxiety and nerves as I walked up to the podium for my examination. I knew one of the questions I was going to be asked would be about baptism. The 2nd question was a wild card. I had no idea, but I knew it would be about something the Committee on Ministry discussed with me in my examination and there was a lot of material there. My mind was spinning with everything we talked about and I was afraid I would fail the examination. However, the examination question surprised me. It seemed so easy to answer at the time and I thought the committee was being gracious with me. My question was, “One of the ordination questions that you will answer is, do you promise to further peace, unity, and purity of the church? How do you see yourself living out this ordination question at Grace Presbyterian Church?” While I probably answered the question with some textbook-type answer, I really had no idea how hard this ordination vow would be.

Our city is divided. Our nation is divided. Many families are divided. How on earth can we ever live in unity with one another? How can we be united as a church? Let’s explore together this Sunday what Jesus and the early church have to say about this. Maybe we will learn something. Join me at 10am either online or in person as we worship God enthusiastically.

Peace,  
Pastor Cara

# Summer Preaching Schedule

- August 4 Let's Talk About The Authority of Scripture
- August 11 Let's Talk About Children
- August 18 Let's Talk About Judging Others
- August 25 Let's Talk About Suffering
- September 1 Let's Talk About is Jesus the Only Way

## Upcoming Worship Schedules

Our summer worship schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1. **Beginning on Sept. 8**, we will return to a school year worship schedule of:

- 9AM contemporary worship
- 10AM Sunday school
- 11:05AM traditional worship

## Get Involved at Grace

### Blue Angels Study Group - Aug. 12 at Noon

We begin our Fall semester with a study on The Theology of Humor. Get ready for lots of laughter! We will then tackle The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis. Bring a lunch and join us at noon on Mondays. If you are planning on joining our group, please check your connection card on Sunday, or use the email link in your newsletter email.

### Stress and Anxiety Management: Supporting Youth - Aug. 18 Presented by the Grant Halliburton Foundation

Young people face challenges with stress and anxiety more than ever before. This presentation provides strategies and practices to help adults guide students to reduce and manage symptoms while recognizing when they need to seek professional services for mental health concerns. The workshop will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, Aug. 18 in CE 204/205. All parents, grandparents, and educators are encouraged to attend.

## Fantasy Football is Back! - Aug. 17

Cowboys fans, ready for another year of early exit playoffs? What better way to take your mind off the Cowboys than to sign up for GPC Fantasy Football! It is indeed that time already. We're kicking off the 2nd annual Grace PC Fantasy Football league. Any age is welcome.

- Cost will be \$10 a team, and we will use the ESPN fantasy app ( will be collected at signup)
- Draft will be Saturday 8/17 in Wheelus Hall at 1pm. It will last roughly 2 hours
- We will gather at 12pm for a potluck lunch in Wheelus- what better way to have a tailgate!
- A laptop, tablet, or phone will be needed to draft, and, to manage your team during the season

Who's gonna be the Grace PC super bowl champ? It could be you- but you gotta sign up! Worried that you have no experience, are a total novice, and have never done this before? Don't be- Mary Erwin was in that EXACT boat last year, and just went for it anyway...and ended up winning one of the 4 leagues! This is a very friendly environment to give a shot. If nothing else- you'll have fun. Use the sign-up link in the newsletter email to register, or check your connection card and a signup form will be sent to you . If you have questions, or want your fears allayed, see David Hurwich, or send him an email at [fun@gracepc.org](mailto:fun@gracepc.org)

## Weeknight Women Fellowship Group Dinner - Aug. 22

Ladies, the weeknight women's fellowship group is returning in August. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend our next dinner on Thursday, August 22 at Rise in Plano. RSVP by either checking your connection card in worship, or using the email link in your newsletter email.

## Stephen Ministry Training - Sept. 6

Stephen Ministry has been an integral part of the fabric of this congregation since 1985. When we became part of this new program, we were one of the first 100 in the world. There are now over 13,000 that have joined the effort to help others.

For those who wonder what Stephen Ministry is. One of the key phrases that best describe it what would be: "Christ caring for Christ's people through people." An individual is assigned to walk through a troubling time with you, in a confidential relationship weekly. This could be something temporary or more long term in nature.

It has been a while since we trained a group of new Stephen Ministers, and we want to open this up to anyone who might be interested in joining us. We will be training along side Corinth Presbyterian Church in Parker. Dena Dillard is a Stephen Leader with them.

Training will consist of Friday night, September 6th and Saturday, September 7th to begin. We will then meet for 10 consecutive Thursday nights at 7 PM. We would then conclude on Saturday, November 14th. We know this is a large commitment, but I would encourage anyone considering joining us to speak to anyone wearing a blue Stephen Ministry badge and see if they have found the training to be beneficial to them and their ministry to others.

You will get 2 workbooks and 3 books as part of the training materials. It costs you \$60 for the materials.

Mike Shaw would be happy to answer any questions you may have. There will be a sign-up on the Connection Card contact Mike at [broncosrbest@verizon.net](mailto:broncosrbest@verizon.net), if you are interested. We would love to have you join us in bringing Christ's love to those hurting among us.

## Grief Group - Sept. 24

The Grief Group at Grace has now been helping people for over 10 years and we will be starting our next group on Sept. 24. We meet in person from 7PM to 9PM. We have expanded it to 8 weeks and we utilize curriculum from a local organization, Faith & Grief Ministries. This is an extension of Stephen Ministry at Grace. There is a link in the newsletter email or you may contact Mike Shaw at [brncorsbest@verizon.net](mailto:brncorsbest@verizon.net) (469-223-6813) for more information. Module topics are shown on the webpage by selecting the link.

## Prayers are being Answered!

Your Prayer Team meets every Sunday in MB2 to pray over the prayers that have been shared with us. We meet at 4 PM, if you would like to have personal hands-on prayer, or wish to join us. If you would like to receive a list of the prayers weekly, send a message to Mike Shaw at [brncorsbest@verizon.net](mailto:brncorsbest@verizon.net) to be added to our efforts to connect to the Lord and the community. Every week, God responds and answers. Here is a God answered this past week:

- Marcia Hansen is making remarkable improvement in rehab!
- Jim Caldwell has now lost 85 pounds!

## We Celebrate

We'd like to celebrate with you too! Please send us anything you are willing to share that will give us a reason to praise God with you and for you! Promotions, awards, accomplishments, personal victories, milestones, or "you name it" are welcome. Send them to Pastor Tracey at [tracey@gracepc.org](mailto:tracey@gracepc.org)

# Mission Updates

Thank you Grace members for donating at the blood drive! Overall, we collected 9 units of blood, short of our goal of 13, but nine units can potentially save 27 lives. Mission is coordinating with Carter Blood for additional drive dates every quarter through 2025.

Mission is looking for additional groups to help restock the Little Free Pantry. Volume at the pantry has taken off and we are often seeing it near empty. Work involves checking the pantry in the west lot and refilling it from the Narthex/office storage. If you or your group wish to join our effort to alleviate hunger in the community and show the kindness and grace of our church, check your connection card.

GPC is collecting school supplies for Carpenter Middle School in Plano ISD. Carpenter is a Title One school, with about 2/3 of their students qualifying for free or reduced lunch. We will be only be collecting three items:

**spiral notebooks (any size or color)**  
**boxes of tissue**  
**pencils**

Please bring all donations to GPC by Sunday, August 11 so that they may be delivered by the first day of school. Please contact Ann Boles at [ann.boles@yahoo.com](mailto:ann.boles@yahoo.com) or 972-898-3405 with any questions.

Your Grace Mission team is running monthly events through the Fall. Be on the lookout for details in the newsletter, connection card and Moment for Mission. Upcoming events are:

- A Minnie's food pantry food drive through August. Ending in our Minnie's workday on Saturday September 7th
- The Family Promise Golf tournament on Monday September 30th.
- The Outreach Program (formerly Numana) meal packing event on Saturday October 5th
- Both the Family Promise Dinner of Hope and the PCHAS Fall Luncheon on Thursday November 7th.

# Young Adults/College Ministry

**College-aged adults**, let's get together for lunch at Blue Goose, 4747 W Park Blvd, on August 4 around 11:15 a.m. This will provide a chance for everyone to connect before you begin your fall activities. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

**Young adults** - please mark your calendar for August 18 at 11:15am for brunch/lunch at Anaya's Seafood Scratch Kitchen, 4621 W. Park Blvd, Suite 100. Looking forward to reconnecting!

For questions about the Young Adult Ministry at Grace Presbyterian, please connect Bonnie Moreland at 972-523-1266 or Wilson Nicholson at [wilson@gracepc.org](mailto:wilson@gracepc.org).

## Children's Ministry

### Children's Movie Night – WISH! - Aug. 9

**When:** Friday, August 9th

**Time:** 6:30-8:30pm

**Who:** Elementary Kids (incoming K-completed 4th grade)

Please contact Pastor Cara at [cara@gracepc.org](mailto:cara@gracepc.org) or Tanya Valenta at [tanya@gracepc.org](mailto:tanya@gracepc.org) for questions or additional information.

### Blessing of the Backpacks - Aug. 11

**Children, Students, and Teachers** mark August 11th on your calendar for our Blessing of the Backpack at the combined 10am worship service!



# Youth Ministry

## Middle School Jump Event - Aug. 4

**When:** Sunday, August 4th

**Time:** 2:00-4:00pm

**Who:** Incoming 6th graders-8th graders

**Cost:** \$15 per person which includes jump time, ropes course, zipcoaster and a \$5 game card.

**Special Notes:**

- *Students will need to wear grip socks or they will be available for \$1 at JW Entertainment.*
- It is required by the gym that everyone sign a waiver prior to jumping. To save time and not have to wait in line at the kiosks at the gym to fill this out, you can do it ahead of time. Click on the link in your newsletter email to access the waiver.

Please contact Pastor Cara at [cara@gracepc.org](mailto:cara@gracepc.org) or Tanya Valenta at [tanya@gracepc.org](mailto:tanya@gracepc.org) for questions or additional information.

## Youth Ministry Dinner - Aug. 11

**When:** Sunday, August 11th

**Time:** 6:00pm-8:00pm

**Who:** Incoming 6th graders-12th graders

Come enjoy dinner and fellowship with other students! We will also be chalking the Dayschool and Beaty Early Childhood sidewalks to encourage the teachers for another school year.

Please contact Pastor Cara at [cara@gracepc.org](mailto:cara@gracepc.org) or Tanya Valenta at [tanya@gracepc.org](mailto:tanya@gracepc.org) for questions or additional information.



# Want to Sing or Ring?

All children & youth choir's will resume rehearsals on Sept. 8

## Choirs

### Sanctuary Adult Choir

Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:15pm

Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

### Exultation Choir

Youth choir for grades 6 – 12

Sundays, 4:00 – 5:15pm

Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

### Voices in Praise (VIPs)

Children's choir for grades 2 – 5

Sundays, 5:15 – 6pm

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

### Cherub Choir

Children's choir for PK thru 1st gd.

Sundays, 4:15 – 5pm

Room CE215

Hannah Allen, Director

## Handbell Choirs

### Grace Notes

Advanced adult handbells

Sundays, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Room: Sanctuary

Michael King, Director

### Credo

High school handbells

Sundays, 2:45 – 4:00pm

Room: Sanctuary

Katie Schnittker, Director

### Tintinnabulators

Middle school handbells

Sundays, 2:45 – 4:00pm

Room CE204-205

Hannah Allen, Director

### Carillon Ringers

Children (Grades 3-5) handbells

Sundays, 4:30 – 5:15pm

Room CE 204/205

Michelle Rutherford, Director

Feel free to contact any of the ensemble directors for more info  
we would love to have you!

Hannah Allen – Children's Choirs, Tintinnabulators (MS handbells),  
[hannah@gracepc.org](mailto:hannah@gracepc.org)

Michael King – Exultation, Grace Notes, Sanctuary Choir, [michael@gracepc.org](mailto:michael@gracepc.org)

Katie Schnittker – Credo Director (HS handbells), [katie.schnittker@gmail.com](mailto:katie.schnittker@gmail.com)

Michelle Rutherford – Carillon Ringers Director (Children handbells),  
[mmrutherford1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmrutherford1@sbcglobal.net)

# Want to Learn?

We will return to our school year schedule on Sept. 8

**Children's School Year**  
**Sunday School**  
**10AM**

**Youth School Year**  
**Sunday School Schedule**  
**10AM**

## **Adult Sunday School Summer Schedule - 11AM**

Word of Life

MB4

## **School Year Adult Sunday School - 10am**

Visions of Faith

MB3

Bible Boomers

Wheelus Hall

Koinonia

CE204/205

Trinity

MB2

Word of Life

MB4

## **Weekly Bible Study Opportunities**

Mon. PM Men's Bible Study, 7-9PM

MB4

(Will return on Aug. 5)

Mon. Blue Angels, 12-1:30PM

MB2

(Will Return on Aug. 12)

Tues. AM Women, 10-11:30AM

MB2

Wed. AM Women of Wonder, 10:30AM

MB4

(Will return on Aug. 7)

Thurs. PM Generations of Grace Women's, 7PM

MB2

(Will return on Sept. 4)

Fri. AM Men's Bible Study, 7-9AM

MB2

Every Other Sat. Men's Bible Study, 8-10AM

MB2

# Calendar

## JULY

- 26 Jigsaw Puzzle Group Meeting, 7PM (Grace Place)
- 28 Combined Worship, 10AM
- 28 Word Of Life Adult Sunday School, 11AM
- 28 Prayer Group, 4PM (MB2 & Zoom)
- 30 Tuesday AM Women's Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)

## AUGUST

- 1 Children & Youth Committee Meeting, 7PM (Zoom)
- 2 Men's Friday AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
- 3 Men's Saturday AM Bible Study, 8:30AM (MB2)
- 3 Gotta Have Fun Game Night, 6:30PM (Grace Place)
- 4 Combined Worship, 10AM
- 4 Word of Life Adult SS, 11AM (MB4)
- 4 College-aged Young Adults Lunch, 11:15AM (Blue Goose)
- 4 MS Jump Event, 2PM
- 4 Prayer Group Meeting, 4PM (MB2)
- 5 Cancer Support Group Meeting, 12PM (Zoom)
- 5 Men's Monday PM Bible Study, 7PM (MB4)
- 6 Tuesday AM Women's Bible Study, 10AM (MB2)
- 6 Nurture Council Meeting, 1:30PM (MB2)
- 6 Day School Committee Meeting, 7PM (Zoom)
- 7 Career Transition Support Group, 9AM (MB2)
- 7 Women of Wonder Bible Study, 10:30AM (MB4)
- 8 Children & Youth Committee Meeting, 7PM (Zoom)
- 8 Men's Pilgrimage Renewal, 7PM (Grace Place)
- 9 Men's Friday AM Bible Study, 8AM (MB2)
- 9 Children's Back to School Movie Night, 6:30PM (Youth Room)
- 9 Jigsaw Puzzler's Meeting, 7PM (Grace Place)
- 10 Quilt Ministry Meeting, 9AM (CE204/205)